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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Asse
12/12/03
In re the Application of: **SHIOJI, Masahiro**

Group Art Unit: 2615

Serial No.: 09/274,771

Examiner: **Nhan t. Tran**

Filed: **March 24, 1999**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 8875

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Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: December 3, 2003

Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application.

Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.